

## **IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please insert the following section on line 4 of the first page of the application as filed following the title of the invention and preceding the section titled, “Background”:

### Cross Reference

This application is a § 371 application of international application number PCT/US04/017979 filed on 07 June 2004, which claims priority from U.S. provisional application number 60/483,279 filed on 27 June 2003, herein incorporated by reference.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 5, page 1 of the application as follows:

Chitin is one of the most abundant biopolymers in nature. Although chitin content varies significantly among different organisms, it is widely distributed among invertebrates including arthropods, nematodes, crustaceans, fungi and some protozoa. It functions generally as an impermeable layer and mechanical support in the cell wall and exoskeleton. For example, when budding yeast cells divide, the locations on the cell wall where the daughter cells detach leave a scar consist of chitin and detection of such budding scar have been used as evidence of cell division and location of cell separation. In some invertebrates such as in nematodes, chitin is known to play a role in the eggshell to protect developing embryos from the hostile environment and provide a rigid housing.

Respectfully submitted,

NEW ENGLAND BIOLABS, INC.

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